

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 TRSE-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11

AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 COME-00 OIC-04 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 STR-08 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07

CIEP-02 CEA-02 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SPM-01

HEW-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 /241 W
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R 061130Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4307

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 4957

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR MARTIN HAD SERIES OF MEETINGS ON JUNE 24 WITH MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND PLANNING AND WITH INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUP CHAIRED BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTRY AND HEAD OF FONOFF ECONOMIC DEPT. MEETINGS WERE CORDIAL BUT IT WAS EVIDENT THAT GOB WILL NOT TAKE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN WFC. AMB MARTIN PRESENTED USG VIEWS ON WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND IDEAS FOR WFC AND SEPTEMBER PREPCOM. BRAZILIANS DESCRIBED GOB AGRICULTURE POLICY AS CURRENTLY DIRECTED TO INCREASING PRODUCTION FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND IMPROVING DISTRIBUTION. THEY PRESENTED VIEW THAT IN THIS WAY BRAZIL WAS MEETING ITS RESPONSIBILITY ON NATIONAL LEVEL WITH RESPECT TO WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS. THEY INDICATED GOB WOULD NOT TAKE ACTIVE ROLE AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, SAID BRAZILIAN DELEGATION WOULD ADOPT "DEFENSIVE" POSTURE DESIGNED TO GUARD AGAINST THREATS TO BRAZIL'S INTERESTS, AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE GOB PLACES ON LDC ACCESS TO COMMODITY MARKETS. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN MEETING WITH INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUP, AMB MARTIN REVIEWED WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS THAT EMERGED IN 1973, PARTICULARLY LOW STOCKS AND INFLATION. HE STATED THAT USG HOPES THAT WFC WILL SET NEW DIRECTIONS FOR ADDRESSING FOOD PROBLEMS, ESTABLISH PRIORITIES, AND INDICATE BODIES FOR ACTION. HE SAID USG BELIEVES IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT PREPCOM MEETING IN ROME MAKE HEADWAY ON REAL ISSUES. HE THEN PRESENTED US ASSESSMENT OF PROBLEMS IN AREAS OF DISTRIBUTION, NUTRITIONAL LEVELS, FARM INCOMES, TRADE AND FISCAL POLICIES THAT CREATE DISINCENTIVES FOR FARMERS, QUESTION OF PRODUCTIVE EFFICIENCY, PARTICULARLY FERTILIZERS, AND NEED TO IMPROVE RESEARCH AT NATIONAL LEVELS. HE SAID USG SUPPORTS BURMA PROPOSAL BY FAO SEC GEN ON FOOD RESERVES AND THAT USSR PARTICIPATION REGARDING COMMERCIAL RESERVES WOULD BE ESSENTIAL. HE SAID USG DESIRES TO FIND MEANS TO INCREASE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION RATHER THAN RELY ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS FOOD AID AND THAT, ON TRADE SIDE, MAIN ISSUE FOR LDCS WAS ACCESS TO SUPPLY. US DID NOT BELIEVE WFC SHOULD GET INTO TRADE ISSUES DEEPLY, SINCE ANY AGREEMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE REACHED IN OTHER FORUMS, PARTICULARLY GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. BATISTA, HEAD OF FONOFF ECON DEPT, NOTED THAT AGRICULTURE WAS A PRIORITY AREA OF BRAZIL. HE SAID GOB ESSENTIALLY AGREES WITH US ASSESSMENT REGARDING STOCKS AND PRODUCTION OUTLOOK. HE SAID MAIN PROBLEM FOR WFC IS WHETHER SITUATION IS TO BE MET BY GUIDELINES THAT WILL PERPETUATE EXISTING DC-LDC SUPPLIER-IMPORTER STRUCTURE OR WILL ENCOURAGE A LONG-TERM TREND TO CHANGE THIS STRUCTURE. HE SAID GOB WAS CONCERNED ABOUT APPARENT DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE US REGARDING THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND WONDERED WHETHER US INTENDED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION UNDER GUISE OF REBUILDING STOCKS. HE ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH MOST LDCS ARE FOOD IMPORTERS, ACCESS TO MARKET IS OF LONG-TERM INTEREST TO LDCS AND SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED AT WFC. AMB MARTIN RESPONDED THAT THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES WITHIN USG REGARDING WORLD FOOD SITUATION, BUT THERE WAS FULL AGREEMENT IN FAVOR OF HELPING LDCS TO INCREASE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUTPUT. HE NOTED THAT WHILE ACCESS TO MARKETS IS ONE ASPECT OF PRODUCTION PROBLEM, THE CURRENT NEED OF MOST LDCS, AND THE ONE THAT WILL PREVAIL FOR SOME YEARS, IS ACCESS TO SUPPLY.

4. ROMANO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, GAVE BRIEF SUMMARY OF GOB PRIORITIES IN AGRICULTURE, NOTING THAT WHILE HIS MINISTRY IS AWARE OF AND INTERESTED

IN WFC, THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS TO DEVELOP SOUND DOMESTIC POLICIES AND NEW STRUCTURES TO STIMULATE NATIONAL OUTPUT. HE NOTED A SERIES OF MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO RAISE TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS OF DOMESTIC SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION. BATISTA ADDED THAT CONCENTRATION ON DOMESTIC PROBLEMS PRESENTED LITTLE OPPORTUNITY AT THE PRESENT FOR GOB TO FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES CONCERNED WITH FOOD PROBLEM. HE SAID THIS DID NOT MEAN LACK OF INTEREST ON PART OF GOB BUT IMPLIED A LESS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN WFC. HE CHARACTERIZED GOB POSITION AS ESSENTIALLY A DEFENSIVE ONE, THAT IS, THE AVOIDANCE OF PROBLEMS FOR BRAZIL.

5. SERGIO BATH, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN OFFICE BASIC PRODUCTS DIVISION, RAISED CONCERN THAT WFC MAY BECOME AN EXERCISE IN STUDIES AND PAPER WRITING AND LOST SIGHT OF REAL ISSUES AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. HE SAID THAT THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL ON FINANCING OF IMPORTS AND SRI LANKA'S IDEA ON FINANCING FERTILIZERS WERE GOOD PROPOSALS THAT HAVE SINCE BEEN ERODED. HE SAID BRAZIL IS MEETING ITS FOOD RESPONSIBILITY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. HE SAID THE MAIN PROBLEM FOR WFC IS THAT LDCS DON'T PRODUCE ENOUGH, AND THAT WFC SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD PRACTICAL REMEDIES, SUCH AS FINANCING OF INCREASED DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND INCENTIVES THROUGH ACCESS TO MARKETS.

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HEW-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 /241 W

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R 061130Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4308

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6. AMB MARTIN NOTED THAT MOST LDGS WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ACCESS TO MARKETS. HE SAID USG WAS EXAMINING FAO SECGEN'S PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND AND SRI LANKA'S PROPOSAL ON A FERTILIZER POOL. HE SAID THE USG WAS NOT FAVORABLE TOWARD THE CREATION OF A NEW FUND AND THAT, WITH RESPECT TO FERTILIZER, MAJOR PROBLEM WAS RAISING PRODUCTION, NOT PROVIDING MORE FINANCING FOR EXISTING OUTPUT. HE NOTED THAT USG WAS OPEN-MINDED ON THE MAREI PROPOSAL FOR COORDINATION.

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY AMB MARTIN, BRAZILIANS SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CURRENT GOB POLICY ON STOCKS OF FOOD COMMODITIES, AND THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE NUTRITION INSTITUTE THAT WAS ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR UNDER MINISTRY OF HEALTH BUT THAT THE INSTITUTE HAD BEEN HAMPERED BY INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS THAT NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED.

8. AGRICULTURE MINISTER PAULINELLI, WHO HAD BEEN BRIEFED
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ON THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING, COVERED MUCH THE SAME GROUND AS HIS SECGEN. HE TOO STATED THAT BECAUSE OF HIS ABSORPTION IN THE TASK OF REORGANIZING HIS MINISTRY, INCREASING PRODUCTION AND IMPROVING DISTRIBUTION DOMESTICALLY, HE HAD NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO DEVOTE THE ATTENTION HE SHOULD TO PREPARATION FOR THE WFC. IN MAKING THE POINT THAT BRAZIL WAS CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES BASICALLY BY ITS PRODUCTION AND RATIONALIZATION EFFORTS (WHICH HE DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL), HE STATED THAT BRAZIL WOULD NOT ASSUME MAJOR ROLE IN THE WFC. HE DID APPEAR RESPONSIVE, HOWEVER, TO AMB MARTIN'S SUGGESTION THAT BRAZIL COULD MAKE A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFERENCE BY PRESENTING A WELL-PREPARED PAPER ON ITS CURRENT EFFORTS AND FUTURE PLANS FOR INCREASING AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT.

9. AMB MARTIN ALSO MET WITH PRESS IN BRASILIA. SUBSEQUENT COVERAGE WAS MODERATE BUT INCLUDED AN ARTICLE IN MAJOR RIO DAILY JORNAL DO BRASIL THAT GAVE REASONABLE SUMMARY OF USG VIEWS ON WFC AND WORLD FOOD SITUATION.

CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, FOODS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRASIL04957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740180-0160
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740771/aaaacilt.tel
Line Count: 224
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SWF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE
TAGS: EAGR, BR, US, WFC, (MARTIN, EDWIN M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005